

Three PhD candidates in Movement Science/Social Psychology, Psychophysiology, and (Social) Neuroscience – Starting in January 2020.

Are you experienced in social/clinical/cognitive neuroscience and interested in how people share their emotions? Are you prepared to take on complex statistical analyses and methodological challenges? Then we would like to get to know you! Please apply at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam for a four-year PhD position.

Location: AMSTERDAM

FTE: 1.0

Job description

This project is part of the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (NWO) project, *The Rhythm of Relating: How Emotional Sharing Emerges from Interpersonal Synchrony in Movements, Physiology, and Neural Activations*. When people engage in emotional sharing, they often display the same rhythms in movements, heart rate, and brain activity. The project will investigate how such synchronous rhythms contribute to interpersonal emotion, using complex statistical analyses (i.e., analysing EEG data, time-frequency analysis, autoregressive modelling). The project entails both experimental research and research in psychotherapy settings. The results may help to make psychotherapy more effective and improve communication, for instance, in close relationships or during negotiations

The project is organised into three sub-projects, each to be carried out by one PhD student. The three PhD students will work together during data collection. At the same time, each PhD student will be responsible for their own sub-project.

- The first PhD student will focus on movement synchrony. This PhD student will be supervised by Sander Koole (VU Amsterdam), Peter Beek (VU), John Stins (VU), Tom Wilderjans (VU/Leiden University/Leuven University), and Wolfgang Tschacher (University of Bern).
- The second PhD student will focus on physiological synchrony, particularly cardiovascular responses. This PhD student will be supervised by Sander Koole (VU Amsterdam), Tom Wilderjans (VU/Leiden University/Leuven University), Wolfgang Tschacher (University of Bern), and Emily Butler (University of Arizona).
- The third PhD student will focus on brain-to-brain synchrony, using EEG hyperscanning. This PhD student will be supervised by Sander Koole (VU Amsterdam), Suzanne Dikker (New York University/VU), and Tom Wilderjans (VU/Leiden University/Leuven University).

Duration of the PhD project is four years. The PhD candidate will participate in the meetings of the Amsterdam Emotion Regulation Lab and the Graduate School of the Faculty of Behavioural and Movement Sciences. The PhD candidate will be based in Amsterdam; however, the position requires intermittent domestic and international travel to attend conferences, training events, and for psychotherapy data collection, which will take place at the VU Amsterdam and Tel Aviv University (under supervision of Dr. Dana Atzil-Slonim).

Your duties

- Designing and performing experiments (all steps from recruiting participants to collecting data, including statistical analysis) regarding brain synchrony using portable EEG scanners
- Complex statistical analysis of to investigate patterns of interpersonal synchronisation.
- Analysis of data from either movement scanners (for the Movement science PhD student), cardiological measures (for the Physiology PhD student), or portable EEG scanners (for the Neuroscience PhD student)
- Collecting data in psychotherapy settings in Amsterdam and Tel Aviv.
- Complete a coherent series of journal articles in English, which culminate in a dissertation, and publish the articles in leading international journals in the field
- Work in team with two additional PhD students and international experts from the Amsterdam Emotion Regulation Lab.
- Engage in social media and popular communication about the research results
- Attending and presenting at international conferences
- Taking part in Graduate School of the Faculty of Behavioural and Movement Sciences which involves training in such relevant topics as research methods, statistics, writing and presenting.

Each PhD student will make a limited contribution each year to the Department's teaching programme (such as leading a student workgroup, co-supervising a Master student's thesis project, or co-teaching a lecture). There is the opportunity to obtain a basic qualification teaching certificate (shortened BKO). However, the primary focus will be on research.

Requirements

- Excellent training in design and conducting of experiments, preferably through an MSc degree in movement science or social/clinical/cognitive neuroscience in a Research Master program. Experience with movement scanners/cardiological measures/EEG scanners is a plus.
- Strong record in quantitative research methods and complex statistical analyses.
- Experience with advanced statistical software programs like R or MATLAB is a plus.
- Outstanding organisational and analytical skills, flexibility (work in team), communicational skills (including social media) and perseverance, ability to work in a team and excellence in written and spoken English

What are we offering?

The opportunity to do ground-breaking research in a team a young and inspiring international team of researchers. Salary will be in accordance with university regulations for academic personnel and amounts €2,325 (PhD) per month during the first year and increases to €2,972 (PhD) per month during the fourth year, based on a full-time employment. The job profile is based on the university job ranking system and is vacant for at least 1.0 FTE.

The start date of the PhD track will be January 2020. The appointment will initially be for 1 year. After a favourable evaluation of the initial appointment, the contract will be extended for a total duration of 4 years.

Additionally, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam offers excellent fringe benefits and various schemes and regulations to promote a good work/life balance, such as:

- a maximum of 41 days of annual leave based on full-time employment
- 8% holiday allowance and 8.3% end-of-year bonus
- contribution to commuting expenses
- optional model for designing a personalized benefits package
- a wide range of sports facilities which staff may use at a modest charge

About Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

The Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam aims to contribute to a better world through outstanding education and ground-breaking research. Where people from different disciplines and backgrounds work together on innovations and on generating new knowledge. Our teaching and research embrace the whole spectrum of science – from the humanities, the social sciences and the pure sciences through to the life sciences and the medical sciences. The Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam is home to more than 24,500 students. We employ more than 4,600 individuals. The VU campus is easily accessible, located in the heart of Amsterdam's Zuidas district, a dynamic environment for teaching and research.

Diversity

Diversity is one of our university's core values. We are an inclusive community, and we believe that diversity and international activities enhance the quality of education and research. We are always looking for people who can enhance diversity on our campus thanks to their background and experience.

Faculty of Behavioural and Movement Sciences

The Faculty of Behavioural and Movement Sciences stands for innovative and ambitious teaching and research. FGB's research and teaching makes it a key player in scientific and societal developments. The faculty has approximately 2,500 students and 900 employees. The academic staff consists of professors, lecturers, researchers and doctoral candidates, who work within five departments. The current project takes place at the Department of Clinical, Neuro- and Developmental Psychology.

Application

Are you interested in this position? Please apply via the application button and upload your curriculum vitae and cover letter before **October 25 2019**. The job interviews are planned for **October 31 2019** (1st round) and **November 7 2019** (2nd round), when possible please take them into account when applying for the position.

Applications received only via e-mail will not be processed.

Vacancy questions

If you have any questions regarding this vacancy, please contact:

Name: Sander Koole



Position: Full Professor

E-mail: s.l.koole@vu.nl

Telephone: 06 21141018

No agencies

Job area: PhD

Educational Level: MSc, PhD

VU unit: Faculty of Behavioural and Movement Sciences

Minimum FTE: 1.0

Contract type: Temporary

Minimum salary scale: €2,325 (PhD)

Maximum salary scale: €2,972 (PhD)